

What is meant by the will of God?

We often hear Christians talking about the will of God. Generally in association with some decision that they are contemplating such as which job to take, what school to go to and the like.

1. How many different types of will does God have?

Ezekiel **24:14** – Assured will

1 Timothy **2:3-4** – Desired will

God essentially has two different types of wills. There is His divine, sovereign, assured will. This is the type of thing that God does guarantee will happen. Its fulfillment is based upon the nature and character of God. The other kind of will is a desired will. These are the things that ought to be present in our lives but they are not absolutely guaranteed by God to be present. God may move events to bring His desired will to fruition but He does not make sure that it will actually come to pass.

2. How can we find out about the details of God's assured will?

Genesis 38:13-15

Romans **8:26-30**

1 Corinthians **1:1**

Galatians **1:4-5**

Jeremiah **4:28-29**

Acts 16:6-9

God's assured will consists of those things that God stated that HE will do and accomplish. Its results are based upon the nature and character of God and the work He will actually do Himself. The assured will of God never depends upon the reaction of man to God's work. Instead they depend upon God working according to His own nature and character bringing about what He wants to bring about.

3. How can we find out about the details of God's desired will?

Romans **1:9-12**; 15:30-32

1 Peter 2:15; **3:13-18**; **4:1-5**

Ephesians **6:5-7**

1 Thessalonians **4:1-4**

1 Thessalonians 5:18

God's desired will centers around His expectations for people without His guaranteeing the results. It generally consists of the actions of man to bring about the desired results. The desired will of God is accomplished when men willingly submit themselves to the words of God found in the scriptures and do what the scriptures say. Regardless of the decision that a man may make, God's assured will is not affected. God will still work with the situations that we place ourselves into in order to bring honor and glory to His perfect name.

4. How can we determine whether it is the assured will of God or the desired will of God?

Isaiah **45:18-19**

Jeremiah **23:20-22**

John 12:47-50

Romans **12:1-3**

Hebrews **10:35-37**

1 John 2:16-17

Whether an act or event is the assured will of God or the desired will of God will depend upon whether its outcome depends upon God or upon man. When the results depend upon God, then the event falls under the assured will of God. For example, the reality of a person's salvation depends completely upon the actions of God and in no way depends upon the actions of the man. The reality of a person's salvation then is under the realm of God's assured will. The job that a person takes is dependent upon the decision of a person and the scriptures in no way covers the details of the topic so it falls within the realm of God's desired will. While God may prefer one job over another, God is under no obligation to tell you about it but regardless of the decision the person makes, God will utilize the person in that position to accomplish aspects of His assured will as He sees fit.